

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2087

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 4920

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, CS

SUBJECT: RENEWED CHARGE OF U.S. INTROMISSION RE
EXTRADITION LAW

REF: SAN JOSE: 4240, 4209, 4165, 4082

1. (BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED) NOVEMBER 20 EXCELSIOR HAS RESUSCITATED CHARGES OF U.S. "INTROMISSION" INTO COSTA RICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS WITH STORY THAT ONE OF THEIR REPORTERS ACTUALLY SAW, IN OFFICE OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL, "NOTE" SENT BY AMBASSADOR TO PRESIDENT CONTAINING SUGGESTIONS FOR CHANGES IN COSTA RICAN EXTRADITION LAW TO APPLY TO VESCO CASE. EXCELSIOR SAYS ITS STORY IS IN RESPONSE TO MEDIA REPORTS LAST WEEK WHICH ALLEGED, ERRONEOUSLY, THAT AMBASSADOR DENIED EXISTENCE OF SUCH CORRESPONDENCE WHEN HE RESPONDED TO REPORTERS' QUESTIONS FOLLOWING A CALL ON THE PRESIDENT NOVEMBER 12.

2. REST OF ARTICLE REHASHES EARLIER CHARGES, INCLUDING THOSE OF ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND ACTING
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PRESIDENT GUZMAN MATA, AS WELL AS DECLARATIONS

OF PRESIDENT ODUBER, AND VICE PRESIDENT CASTILLO (REFTELS). LATTER TWO CONFIRMED EXISTENCE OF SUCH CORRESPONDENCE, ARTICLE NOTES.

3. IN RESPONSE THIS TROUBLE-MAKING REPORT, LATEST OF MANY IN WHICH EXCELSIOR IS ALWAYS INVOLVED, AMBASSADOR SENT FOLLOWING LETTER TO DIRECTORS OF THREE MORNING DAILIES NOVEMBER 20:
(BEGIN QUOTE) IN VIEW OF THD CONTINUING ATTEMPTS OVER THE LAST FEW WEEKS TO CREATE CONFUSION IN THE MINDS OF COSTA RICANS CONCERNING MY ACTIONS RELATING TO THE EXTRADITION LAW, I WOULD LIKE TO MAKE THE FOLLOWING STATEMENTS: (1) THERE IS NOT, THERE HAS NEVER BEEN AND THERE WILL NOT BE ANY PRESSURE FROM ME PERSONALLY, FROM THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT, OR FROM ANY OFFICIAL OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON THE GOVERNMENT OF COSTA RICA REGARDING THIS MATTER. (2) THERE HAS NOT BEEN, THERE IS NOT, AND THERE WILL NOT BE ANY INTERFERENCE IN ANY FORM WHATEVER IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF COSTA RICA EITHER OVER THE VESCO CASE OR ANY OTHER MATTER. (3) DURING MY STAY IN COSTA RICA I HAVE HAD THE HONOR TO BE ABLE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS ON A REGULAR BASIS WITH THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA AND THE MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT. THESE EXCHANGES HAVE COVERED EVERY SUBJECT OF MUTUAL INTEREST TO OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. HOWEVER, IN KEEPING WITH DIPLOMATIC PRACTICE AND TRADITION, THE PRIVACY OF THE CONTENTS OF DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE PRESIDENT OR MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT, AND THE PRIVACY OF THE DISCUSSIONS HAS BEEN FULLY RESPECTED BY ME AND THE MEMBERS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN COSTA RICA, AND WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO.

I INTEND TO CONTINUE TO RESPOND AS FULLY AND HONESTLY AS POSSIBLE TO ANY REQUEST THAT THE PRESIDENT OF COSTA RICA AND MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT MAY MAKE FOR THE VIEWS OF MY GOVERNMENT ON ANY SUBJECT OF MUTUAL INTEREST. I WILL ALSO CONTINUE TO CONVEY FAITHFULLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND MEMBERS OF HIS GOVERNMENT ANY INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM MY GOVERNMENT. THESE ARE THE NORMAL AND PROPER FUNCTIONS OF ANY AMBASSADOR. I WILL CONTINUE TO CONFIDENTIAL

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RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF ANY OF THESE EXCHANGES.

I AM SURE THAT THOSE WHO ARE ILL-INTENTIONED OR WHO HAVE SPECIAL INTERESTS TO SERVE WILL CONTINUE THEIR EFFORTS TO MAKE FALSE ACCUSATIONS OR TO HANDLE INFORMATION IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CONFUSE THE COSTA RICAN PUBLIC. HOWEVER, I FEEL CONFIDENT THAT THE COSTA RICAN PUBLIC WILL BE ABLE TO JUDGE THOSE ACCUSATIONS IN THE LIGHT OF MY OWN POSITION.

FINALLY, I WISH TO REMPHASIZE THAT THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK THE EXTRADITION OF ROBERT L. VESCO TO ANSWER BEFORE THE COURTS OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE CHARGES ON WHICH HE HAS BEEN DULY INDICTED. THESE EFFORTS WILL BE, AS THEY HAVE BEEN, WITH FULL RESPECT FOR THE LAWS, THE INSTITUTIONS AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF COSTA RICA. (END QUOTE)

(END UNCLASSIFIED)

4. (BEGIN CLASSIFIED);7 :9..3,5: TIMING OF THIS LATEST CHARGE OF INTROMISSION IS UNDOUBTEDLY RELATED TO POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF EXTRADITION LAW IN CURRENT ORDINARY OR IN (AFTER DECEMBER 1) UPCOMING EXTRAORDINARY SESSION. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE EMBASSY HAS HEARD FROM DIFFERENT SOURCES THAT THIS QUESTION MAY BE DISCUSSED SOON. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE INSTIGATORS OF THIS NEWEST ARTICLE IS OBVIOUSLY TO PREPARE THE ATMOSPHERE TO DEFLECT THE ASSEMBLY'S INTEREST FROM THE REAL ISSUE IF INDEED THE ASSEMBLY EVER CONSIDERS IT.

(END CLASSIFIED)

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